AMENDMENT

Please substitute the following for the Abstract of the Disclosure, which was originally presented in field (57) of the title page of the present application:

-- A thin film heating element capable of withstanding power densities of 10-20 watts cm^{-2} and/or temperatures up to 650°C is disclosed. The heating element includes a layer of electrically conducting metal oxide on an electrically insulating substrate, wherein the metal oxide layer is doped with at least one rare earth element. The preferred form of the heating element includes a layer of tin oxide doped with relatively large quantities of cerium and lanthanum deposited on an insulating substrate by pyrolysis of a solution of monobutyl tin trichloride containing the cerium and lanthanum. The solution and subsequent oxide layer further include donor and acceptor elements such as antimony and zinc to enhance conductivity of the heating element.--